



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CARTHAGE, LICKING, SPRINGFIELD FELONS SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that three felons were sentenced in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms.

* **Douglas M. Gollhofer**, 31, of Carthage, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to 10 years in federal prison without parole.

On Oct. 10, 2003, **Gollhofer** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of several firearms. By pleading guilty, **Gollhofer** admitted that he was in possession four firearms on Jan. 26, 2003, in Jasper County, Mo., including a .308-caliber Winchester rifle with ammunition; a .22-caliber Remington rifle; a 12-gauge Magtech shotgun; and a 12-gauge Harrington and Richardson shotgun. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Gollhofer** has a 1993 criminal felony conviction for stealing, a 1995 criminal felony conviction for burglary and stealing, a 1997 criminal felony conviction for receiving stolen property, and a 1997 criminal felony conviction for second degree burglary and stealing.

Gollhofer was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Aug. 13, 2003, in Springfield.

This case was prosecuted by Deputy U.S. Attorney Michael A. Jones. It was investigated by the Carthage, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **David Ritchie**, 40, of Springfield, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to five years and three months in federal prison without parole.

On Feb. 19, 2004, **Ritchie** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Ritchie** admitted that he was in possession of a KG 9 mm semi-automatic assault weapon on Feb. 11, 2003, in Greene County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any person convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm. **Ritchie** has two criminal felony convictions for auto theft in 1987 and assault in 1994.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney James J. Kelleher. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Springfield, Mo., Police Department.

* **Donald R. Shrout**, 55, of Licking, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to four years and nine months in federal prison without parole.

On Oct. 8, 2003, **Shrout** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Shrout** admitted that he was in possession of a Marlin .22 caliber rifle on Feb. 18, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Shrout** has a 1997 criminal felony conviction for stealing in Phelps County, Mo., a 1997 criminal felony conviction for manufacture of marijuana in Texas County, Mo., and a 1968 criminal felony conviction for robbery in Texas County.

This case was prosecuted by Deputy U.S. Attorney Mike Jones. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Texas County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Pulaski County, Mo., Sheriff's Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow